NOTICE OF INTENT/PREPARATION PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR AN EIS/EIR FOR THE

NORTH COUNTY MULITPLE SPECIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM (MSCP) PLAN

March 30, 2005

Agenda

Staff Overview and Presentation

- Purpose of Public Scoping Meeting
- Overview of the North County MSCP Plan
- Overview of the EIS/EIR and NEPA/CEQA Process

Public Request to be Heard

Questions and Public Input

Purpose of Scoping Meeting

- Information Dissemination
- Identification of Issues
- Scope of Review
- Questions and Comments on the North County MSCP Plan and EIS/EIR

Overview of the North County MSCP Plan

Study Area





Purpose of MSCP

The MSCP streamlines appropriate development while conserving lands

Goal is to gain "coverage" for species listed or likely to be listed





Federal Process Without MSCP

HCP Permit Application

USFWS and CDFG Review

 HCP Application Published in Federal Register

Issue Section 10 Permit



Cost & Time Savings

Without MSCP

- Developers & local agencies bear all costs
- Multiple permit authorities
- Project by project negotiations
- Disruptions from future ESA listings

With MSCP

- Cost sharing
- County has permit authority
- Pre-established requirements
- No disruptions from future ESA listings

Benefits to Habitat

Without MSCP

- Piecemeal, isolated open space easements
- Newly listed species are potentially not covered
- Uncoordinated funding efforts for habitat conservation
- Habitat management is inconsistent

With MSCP

- Regional, interconnected preserve system
- Species not listed are conserved
- Focus of Bond Act funding backed by 5county group
- Regional adaptive management programs



North County Vegetation

Coastal sage scrub

Chaparral of various forms

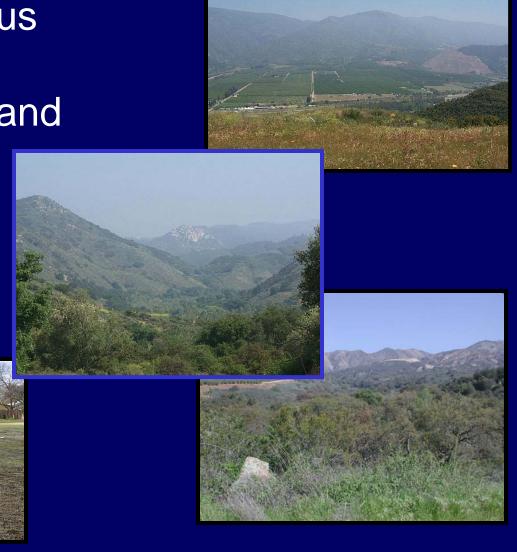
Grassland Native and

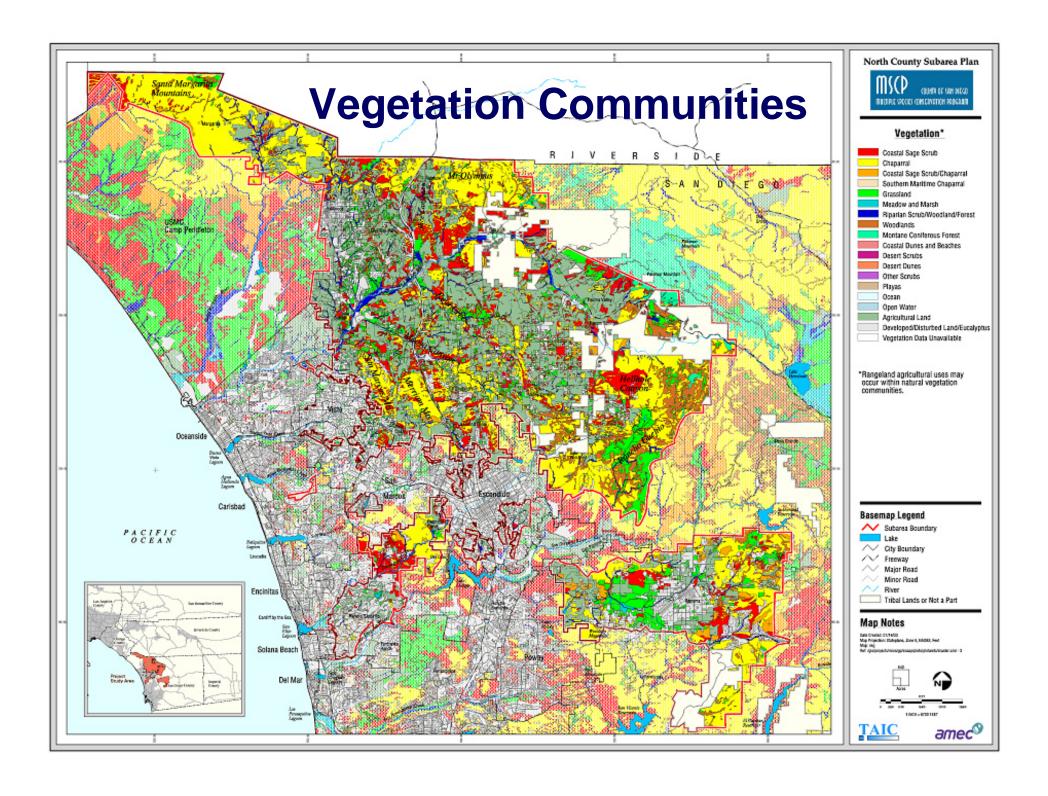
Annual

Riparian

Oak woodlands

Vernal Pools





Designing the preserve

Modeling

- Conservation planning depends on sound biological & modeling principles
- Relative habitat values need to assessed
- Many species considered together for coverage
- Lack of property access to perform surveys





Specific Studies

- Stephens' kangaroo rat
- Vernal pool species
- Grasshopper sparrow
- Arroyo toad









North County Plan Issues





Vernal pools



Highway 76

Agriculture/ Working Landscapes

Coordination with GP 2020









Subarea Plan Working Draft



Areas within PAMA

PAMA Upland Habitats

PAMA Riparian/Wetland Conservation Areas

Existing Agriculture Containing Habitat
Value Important for Coverage

Existing Agriculture

Areas outside PAMA

Riparian/Wetland Conservation Areas

Natural Vegetation

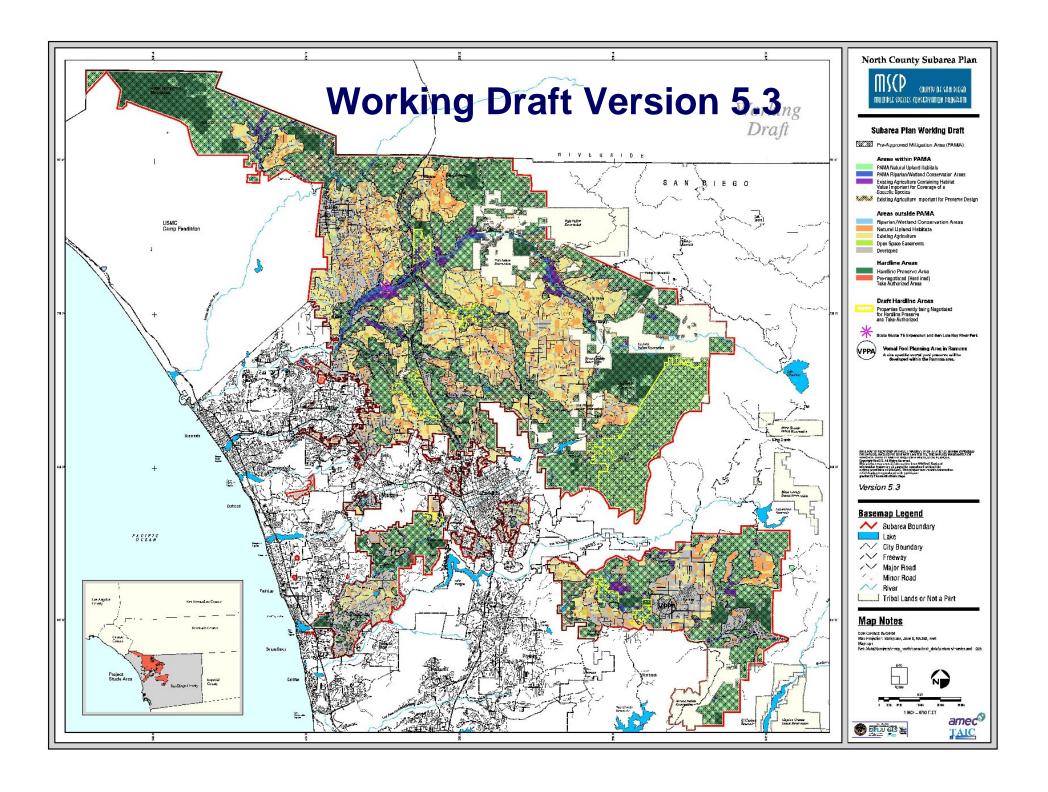
Existing Agriculture

Developed

Hardline Areas

Hardline Preserve Area

Pre-negotiated (Hardlined) Take Authorized Areas



Implementing the plan

Existing Open Space & Acquisitions











Pre-Approved Mitigation Areas

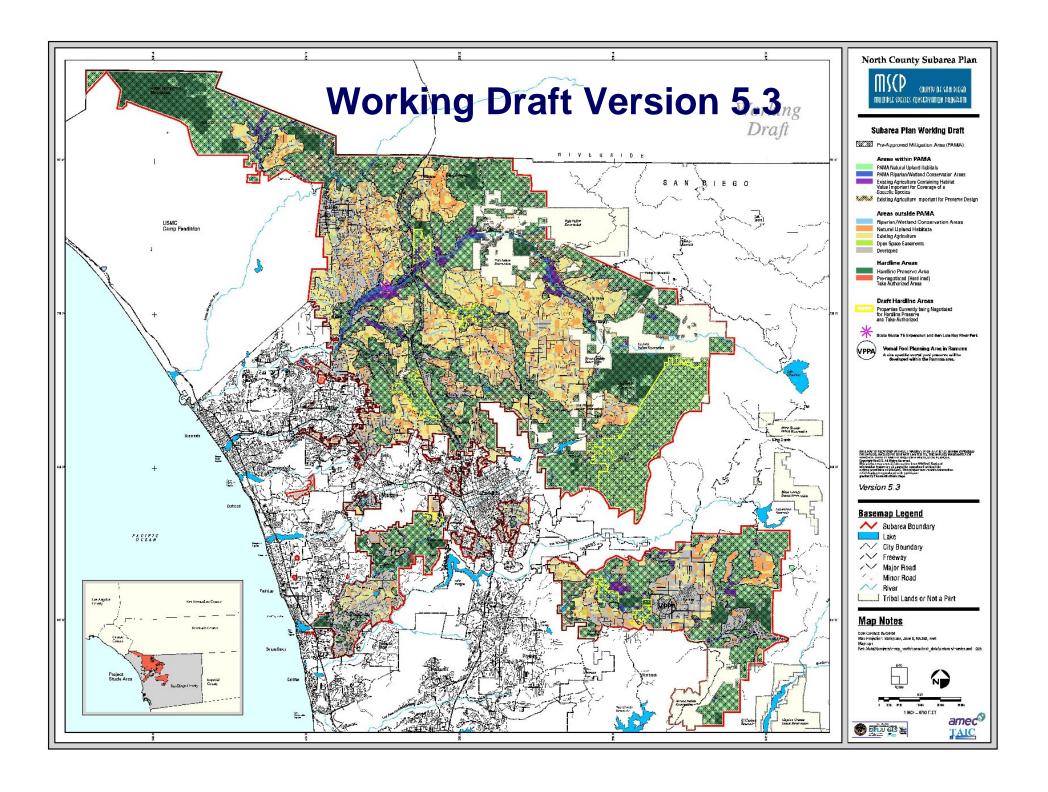
- "Soft-Line" Areas
- All areas still subject to CEQA
- Development shall:
 - meet resource design standards
 - mitigate impacts
- Mitigation ratios set by Biological Mitigation Ordinance
 - Ratios favor preservation within PAMA

Biological Mitigation Ordinance

- Implements the MSCP plan
- Replaces Biological section of Resource Protection Ordinance



- Uses habitat-specific mitigation ratios
- Incentives to mitigate in Preserve
- Provides exemptions
 - For example, most single-family residences.



Management and Monitoring









Public Use of Preserve Lands









Next Steps

- Work with Agencies to finalize model products
- Future public workshops
- Evaluate Proposal for successful coverage of Species
- Prepare Draft Plan and present it for input
- Update Biological Mitigation Ordinance
- Prepare Plan & EIS/EIR for public review
- Take plan and EIR/EIS to hearing
- Obtain Permit from Wildlife Agencies

Overview of the EIS/EIR and NEPA/CEQA Process

Overview of the EIS/EIR and NEPA/CEQA Process

- What is an EIS/EIR?
- Why is an EIS/EIR Required for the North County MSCP Plan?
- Scope of the EIS/EIR for North County MSCP Plan
- NEPA/CEQA Process

What is an EIS/EIR?

- •An "EIS" or Environmental Impact
 Statement is required per the National
 Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) [Federal requirement]
- •An "EIR" or Environmental Impact Report is required per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) [State requirement]

Similarities of an EIS & EIR

- provides full and fair discussion of significant environmental impacts and ways to mitigate or avoid the effects
- •informs decisionmakers and the public of the reasonable alternatives which would avoid or minimize adverse impacts or enhance the quality of the human environment

Differences of an EIS & EIR

	Scoping & Notice Requirements	Discussion of Alternatives	Discussion of mitigation measures and growth inducing impacts	Adoption of mitigation measures
NEPA	Oriented toward federal agencies and include State and local agencies and groups as necessary	Examined at the same level of detail as the project	Discussed for each alternative	Does not require the agency to adopt the mitigation measures identified in an EIS
CEQA	Published in a local newspaper or otherwise provided locally	Not examined in as great a detail as the project	Focuses on the project	Mandates adoption unless a measure is found to be infeasible for specific reasons

Why is an EIS/EIR Required for the North County MSCP Plan?

 To evaluate the project's significant environmental effects.

 To identify feasible mitigation and alternatives.

 An EIS/EIR is required as a part of the environmental review process.

Scope of the EIS/EIR for the North County MSCP Plan

Scope:

A programmatic EIS/EIR will be prepared to satisfy the requirements of NEPA and CEQA.

General Format of the EIS/EIR:

- Project Description
- Projects Alternatives
- Significant Environmental Effects
- Cumulative Impacts
- Long-Term Environmental Effects
- Mitigation Measures & Design Elements

EIS/EIR Subject Areas

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology & Soils
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Land Use & Planning

- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population & Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation & Circulation
- Utilities & Service Systems
- Cumulative Impacts
- Long Term Effects

NEPA/CEQA Process

THE EIS/EIR PROCESS – Approximately 1 YEAR

- Notice of Intent/Preparation
- North County MSCP Plan Documents
- Prepare the EIS/EIR
- Public Review of the EIS/EIR
- Response to Comments
- Finalize NEPA/CEQA Documents
- Certification of the EIS/EIR

PUBLIC REQUEST TO BE HEARD

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

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